

10 July 1978

TO: C/P&PD

FROM: C/PB

SUBJ: Observations on the Impact of H.R. 12923 (Federal Audiovisual Materials Act of 1977)

1. Reference Section 3.(1),(2), (3), (4). The definition of "audiovisual materials" is somewhat cloudy, relative to the entire gamut of PB products. I interpreted these materials to be those items which can be seen on screens (motion picture type or CRTs) or heard (sound systems). This would appear to exclude microforms (as a records storage media), black and white and color prints, copy negatives, diazo materials, etc. Note that viewgraphs are not mentioned, yet they are visuals without exception. In terms of "producers" and "employees", as identified in these paragraphs, we seem to fit these definitions, with the exception that we are reproducing and/or creating photo products at the request of our customers in a support/services role. We rarely generate audio-visuals for our own internal use.
2. Reference Section 4 and sub paragraphs:  
We are presently dealing with the private sector in motion picture processing and services [redacted] and would continue to do so in the immediate future, i.e., I see no significant impact here. These contractors have, of course, the necessary clearances.
3. Reference Section 6 and sub paragraphs: Subjectively speaking, it would take a real whiz kid to supply information on this Agency's audiovisuals to the commission - perhaps a whole staff of knowledgeable people.

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4. Reference Section 7.(2), (4):  
The wording here would seem to be our means of exemption from H.R. 12923 regulation. "....or collecting and compiling of intelligence regarding the national security" are the key words. The bulk of all so called audiovisuals generated here cover the entire range of security classifications. I cannot imagine benefits to the private sector that would be an equitable tradeoff for the headaches of clearances acquisition, timeliness of response and the uniqueness of customer requests. Can you imagine producing visuals for the DCI in the usual 4-8 hour turnaround time, by taking them to some outside lab in Beltsville, for example?



Chief, Photography Branch

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